FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MEETING OF CONTADORA FOREIGN MINISTERS ANNOUNCED

FL172126 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- On 22 August the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group will hold their eighth meeting on the Panamanian island of the same name to deal with the prevailing serious situation in Central America.

A spokesman for the Colombian Embassy in Mexico City made the announcement and added that there was a possibility that the foreign ministers of Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Costa Rica would also attend the meeting.

The Colombian Embassy insisted that the Latin American nations are giving their full and unrestricted support to the peace measures that the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, is preparing for the area for the purpose of finding political and peaceful solutions to the regional crisis.

The Colombian Embassy here pointed out that Colombia's representative, Minister of Foreign Affairs Rodrigo Lloreda Calcedo, will attend the meeting with a renewed spirit, following declarations and promises made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to the president of this country, Miguel de la Madrid, during their recent meeting in La Paz, Baja California Sur.

In conclusion, the embassy spokesman expressed satisfaction with Mexican policy and emphasized that peace and wisdom are the only ways to find solutions to the area problems.

C.A. ECONOMY MINISTERS TO MEET IN HONDURAS 31 AUG

PA161557 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Gonzalo Carias, president of the Honduran Central Bank, has made an exclusive statement to Cadena Audio Video announcing a meeting of the Central American economy ministers in Tegucigalpa on 31 August to analyze the socio-economic situation in the region.

Carias also announced that on 1 September, Central American economic authorities will focus on Tegucigalpa as Dante Ramirez assumes the presidency of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration in a special ceremony.

MID NOMINATES CANDIDATES FOR OCTOBER ELECTION

PY162303 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0016 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Aug (NA) -- The national convention of the Development and Integration Movement (MID) today formally proclaimed the Rogelio Frigerio-Antonio Salonia slate for the presidential election during a ceremony in which the party head, Arturo Frondizi, accused the military government of "connivance in silence" against the MID's thinking.

Frigerio accused "the political leaders of being of two stripes, who cannot see today the need for an immediate turnabout in economic policy, and of complicity with the government. He said that the MID will have to wrestle with the economic programs of the radicals and the "populists" which "resemble the current economic policy like water drops resemble one another." The MID candidate affirmed that "if all the social forces face up to the government now, a policy change can be obtained immediately," and noted that "if that is not achieved, a timebomb will be ticking under the chair of the party which next comes to power."

URUGUAYAN, LOCAL PARTY LEADERS TO MEET

PY171659 Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (AFP) -- Reliable party sources today reported that the top leaders of the four major Argentine and Uruguayan parties will hold a meeting in Buenos Aires on Thursday. During the meeting, the leaders will reaffirm their support for the restoration of democracy in Uruguay. The meeting will be attended by Argentina's Justicialist, or Peronist, and Radical Parties and Uruguay's Blanco and Colorado Parties.

According to the sources, the parties will be represented by Deolindo Bittel, Italo Luder, Antonio Caffiero, and Miguel Unamuno (Peronism); Raul Alfonsin, Conrado Storani, and Adolfo Grass (Radicals); Ulises Pivel Devoto, Fernando Oliu, and the priest, Juan Martin Posadas (Blancos); and Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Enrique Tarigo, and Luis Hierro Gambardella (Colorados).

The Uruguayan military regime has recently enforced an institutional act banning political activities as well as reporting on political activities. The dialogue with the civilians on a constitutional reform was suspended at the end of July. General elections are scheduled for November 1984, and the handing over of power for March 1985. The Armed Forces came to power in 1973.

BOLIVIAN MINISTER NEGOTIATES GAS SALE TERMS

PY170332 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1610 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Aug (DYN) -- Reliable sources report that Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado has had a meeting with Felix Pena, under secretary of international economic relations of the Argentine Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, which was held at San Martin Palace this afternoon, the two officials addressed commercial matters that reportedly included the sale of Bolivian gas to Argentina. Ortiz Mercado, whose presence in Buenos Aires had not been reported, at least officially, has already held negotiations with the Argentine Government to arrange more advantageous terms for the sale of Bolivian gas. Argentina has purchased Bolivian gas for several years.

SILES WANTS WORKER REPRESENTATIVES IN CABINET

f172240 Paris AFP in Spanish 1527 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] La Paz, 17 Aug (AFP) -- In a speech delivered in Potosi, 574 km south of La Paz, Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo reiterated his decision to form a government comprising national social sectors and the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP].

Siles Zuazo said that only a national consensus will allow the state to overcome the country's current critical situation, and added that his government wants the workers to be represented in the cabinet.

He said he fully supports those private enterprises engaged in developing national interests, since his regime supports the coexistence of cooperative, private, and public property.

The president's speech was broadcast at a time when the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] is awaiting a definitive answer to its comanagement proposals, and when the Bolivian Confederation of Private Businessmen has declared itself in a state of alert because of leftist advances.

COB 'DEMANDS' GOVERNMENT ANSWER PROPOSAL

PY170335 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpt] In a note addressed to the minister secretary general of the presidency, the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has demanded an immediate answer to the emergency program it submitted to the government 7 days ago.

The note states that the proposal should have been answered promptly in view of the country's current crisis, but despite the elapsed time the government has yet to issue a reply.

On reading the COB note addressed to the government, leader Jose Maria Palacios pointed out that delay in reaching a decision regarding the comanagement proposal jeopardizes the democratic process.

[Begin Palacios recording] Thus far we have been waiting for the government to clearly and conclusively answer our proposal, but we have still not received a reply to the people's demands, as voiced through the COB. Therefore, we request that the executive branch give us, through the COB, a prompt and reliable answer to our proposals. [end recording]

DAILY WARNS AGAINST COMMUNIST MANEUVERING

PY170345 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Unacceptable Communist Maneuver"]

[Text] For some time now, the Bolivian people have been pressured to accept a system incompatible with their unique customs and characterics and that they themselves have rejected on several previous occasions. Local communists are skillfully seeking to build a government model that may allow communists from all factions to achieve power, probably with the sole exception of the Maoists. This model is based on President Siles Zuazo's international prestige and the domestic economic crisis that was brought about by the regime's lack of ability.

This maneuver has been skillfully planned at Government House and at the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] headquarters. The COB is an organization in which not even Juan Lechin has as much power as the Communists. The maneuver has been based on a kind of blackmail that all the people must reject. They are seeking to convince everyone, both at home and abroad, that whoever refuses to accept the model of communist government that is being implemented and a program of government in which the state plays the preeminent role -- although the program does not state this -- is conspiring against democracy.

What has not yet been said -- or if it has been said, it must be repeated now -- is that the Bolivian people fought against authoritarian military regimes and defeated them, but not to impose a communist regime. Under a communist government, the majority, who disagree with communist doctrine, might be forced to face the death squad. In truth, only a limited number of Bolivians support communism.

The people -- let us say this again -- have rejected both authoritarian regimes and political parties, as was proven by the results of the last three elections; actually, not even 30 percent of the voters supported the ruling coalition, taking into account the number of people who did not vote or who cast blank votes. But even if we do not take this into account, it should be noted that those who voted for the UDP [Popular and Democratic Unity] actually voted for a set of parties in which the Communist Party played only a secondary role. Victory, if there was any victory at all, is to be credited to the MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left] and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], although the MIR has now shifted to the opposition. Therefore, the attempt to rebuild the ruling coalition with COB leaders, most of whom are Communist Party members or, in some cases, members of the PS-1 [Socialist Party-One] is a subterfuge that the people cannot tolerate because it will completely distort the model that they chose at the ballot box.

Therefore, it must be made clear that those who oppose such a system are not conspiring against democracy but, on the contrary, are defending the true scope, meaning, and projection of democracy. The charge that they are driven by the desire to destabilize is simply part of a clumsy maneuver that seeks to justify a gross deception.

Having clarified this much, we must go even further and state that the Bolivian people are not communists and that, therefore, they will reject any specifically Marxist government.

In addition, if anything else remains to be clarified, we must add that the maneuver by which they are trying to change the foundations of the prevailing system is a real coup d'etat, not only against the constitutional government but against the institutions.

PINOCHET ORDERS CABINET TO TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT

PY172008 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1327 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 17 Aug (EFE) -- At the end of a government meeting, the secretary general of the Chilean Government, Alfonso Marquez de la Plata, stated that General Augusto Pinochet's new cabinet will mainly struggle against unemployment.

The economic team will today meet with President Pinochet to discuss a priority plan aimed at decreasing the unemployment level, which official sources say surpasses 20 percent while the opposition claims 30 percent.

Without explaining the content of the economic plan, the government spokesman noted that it is a "coherent and realistic plan" that aims to establish new job sources with the ultimate objective of eradicating unemployment.

According to sources close to the government, newly appointed Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa is the head of this plan. He will be in charge of controlling all government actions so that at all times all economic decisions will be related to political decisions -- without interfering with each other.

During a press briefing, Marquez de la Plata noted that the president "has ordered his team to tackle the unemployment issue so as to seek immediate solutions in this area." He said that this is why the president will continue to meet today with all ministers related to the economic sector, who will brief him on the studies they have carried out in the last few days.

The government spokesman added that the government is not considering the possibility of a devaluation or an increase in the money supply, since what is being sought is a solution that will not harm any other national sector.

For his part, Economy Minister Andres Passicot today noted that "there is no doubt that there is going to be great coordination between the economic and political sectors."

Regarding the new cabinet, Passicot said that "it has a clear and specific political orientation and an excellent technical capacity at the economic level. Therefore, it cannot fail."

In his press briefing, the government secretary general also discussed the domestic situation, which he said has been "absolutely normal during the last few hours."

Asked about those responsible for staging the national day of protest, Minister Marquez said that "the moral burden on these people and the reaction of the citizens against them are the heaviest punishment any person can bear."

According to an official report, 24 people died during the national day of protest -- 11 and 12 August -- but Guillermo Medina, member of the Council of State and union leader, admitted yesterday that 29 people had died as a result of the violent incidents.

Economic Plan Announced

PY172152 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2047 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 17 Aug (EFE) -- The Chilean president, General Augusto Pinochet, today charged that the Marxists want to introduce "wedges" into the Armed Forces in order to divide them.

The Chilean president made this statement in a speech he delivered to the organization of woman volunteers, which is presided over by Mrs Pinochet.

Pinochet also announced an emergency plan aimed at mitigating the effects of unemployment, which is affecting approximately 20 percent of the Chilean work force.

The plan, which includes 10 specific measures, foresees the implementation of several projects that will create some 80,000 jobs. The most significant measures of the plan include the building of 6,000 new houses and the hiring of more workers in afforestation projects and public works.

MINISTRY TO BRING 528 DETAINEES TO TRIAL

PY170310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0202 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 16 Aug (EFE) -- The Interior Ministry's Legal Affairs Department today reports that 528 people will be brought to either civil or military court to answer charges for offenses allegedly committed during the protest staged on 11 August.

The 528 persons are charged with fomenting subversion, attempting to overthrow the military regime, disrupting public order, destroying roads and highways, and breaking the state security law.

The detainees, who will appear in military court, face charges for illegal possession of firearms and mistreatment of Carabineros.

At the same time, the Court of Appeals began considering 128 court injunctions filed by 250 persons who were detained last week during the incidents that marked the fourth day of national protest against the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

POLICE REPORT ON KIDNAPPING OF U.S. CITIZEN

PA170400 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0008 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Bogota, 16 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- Police sources tonight reported that a U.S. citizen has been kidnapped in a remote jungle area in southeast Colombia. A ransom of 40 million pesos, or about half a million dollars, has been demanded for his release. The victim was originally identified by local news media as Martin Stimber, but his name appears as Martin Stendall on the police report.

Press rumors indicate that the kidnappers are members of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), an organization with communist leanings. The police explained, however, that they still do not have enough information to say whether the abductors were guerrillas or common criminals.

BETANCUR INTERVIEWED ON CONTADORA PEACE EFFORTS

PA171540 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Aug 83 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Interview with Colombian President Belisario Betancur by EL ESPECTADOR editor Maria Jimena Duzan in Bogota; date not given]

[Excerpts] EL ESPECTADOR: Mr President, specifically what progress has been made in the last few weeks following the Cancun Declaration?

Betancur: The Cancun Declaration has not only been endorsed by many countries and international public opinion but has been welcomed by the parties involved in the Central American conflict. Support has been expressed by the heads of state of the countries I visited during my tour with the Panamanian president and by the Central American foreign ministers to the Contadora Group in Panama on 28-30 July. The Cancun Declaration calls for specific commitments, such as freezing offensive weapons at existing levels, opening talks on the control and reduction of armaments, banning foreign military installations, and stopping the arms traffic. The fact that the declaration has received the support of the parties directly involved is of fundamental importance to the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America.

EL ESPECTADOR: Judging from the optimism with which you returned from your trip through Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, could we say that the Cancun Declaration was well received?

Betancur: Yes, it was well received, although not unanimously. In such a multifaceted situation, a wide variety of reactions on some aspects, albeit with underlying unanimity, is understandable.

EL ESPECTADOR: What is the basis for your administration's criticism of Reagan's policy toward Central America?

Betancur: We have asked the big powers not to turn Central America into an arena of their conflicts, but rather to promote the development and well being of the people there. We have told them that they will win the hearts of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean with deeds, not weapons. We, the presidents of Venezuela, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia, who are engaged in the Contadora efforts, agree on this.

EL ESPECTADOR: But, Mr President, in view of the two faces that the Reagan Administration shows, one of dialogue and understanding and another of military threat, to which is Contadora directed?

Betancur: Good faith among states is a guiding principle in international relations. I believe the U.S. statements of support for Contadora and its decision not to intervene in Central America militarily. This is particularly so because those statements were made by President Reagan and qualified spokesmen of his administration. In his speech to the U.S. Senate, President Reagan insisted on the promotion of complete democracy in Central America. This is desirable, but it requires education and adaptation. The only element that is worrisome is the emphasis on U.S. security, an argument that has historically been used to justify more than one excess. It is evident that fleets, troops, and foreign advisers -- regardless of where they come from -- do not contribute in any way to peace in the Central American region. We have insisted that one of the basic elements for the solution of the Central American crisis is nonintervention in the domestic affairs of the region's countries. Contadora serves as a link so that the countries -- and only they -- will make the decisions. Therefore, there cannot be "just and legal" intervention or "unjust and undesirable" intervention. Any direct or indirect intervention worsens the situation. Intervention and the use or threat of force are prohibited by the UN Charter.

EL ESPECTADOR: Returning to the topic of Contadora, what are the main obstacles that the efforts for Central American peace are facing?

Betancur: The fact that there are extreme positions that make dialogue difficult. There is also a shortage of time: the peace efforts must be speeded up to compete with the speed of the conflicts. There is so little time for our great hopes! How quickly the hands of the clock fly!

EL ESPECTADOR: What happens if the hands of the clock win? Linked as we are to Central America's fate, it is very probable that the country will be involved in an open war in Central America. What are the risks?

Betancur: Colombia is involved because it is committed to peace. If the peace efforts fail, it will not be Colombia that loses but the entire region, especially the countries more directly involved. It is not a dishonor to fail in an effort to save human lives. The risk for Colombia does not lie in the peace efforts, but in the danger of war. But, I'm letting myself be influenced by your pessimism, my dear Maria Jimenez. Why don't we think about success and stop being so negative?

Presidential-Designate Comments

PA172140 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpt] According to Colombian Presidential-Designate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who is also his country's ambassador to Washington, the Contadora Group is the only alternative to find solutions to the Central American problems and avoid a regional armed conflict.

Gomez Hurtado also strongly criticized General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the new Guatemalan head of state, who, in the wake of the coup staged against General Rios Montt, said that Contadora could not solve the Central American problems, and instead favored the military solutions promoted by the United States. Here are Gomez Hurtado's exclusive comments.

[Begin recording] [Gomez Hurtado] This is undoubtedly a setback for the policy, but not a blow to the group. The group is intact; it has its purposes, and it also seeks to maintain a timetable, modifying it according to circumstances as it continues to work. It is undeniable that if an effort is made to convince a person, and that person is later removed, an effort must also be made to convince the one who replaces him. For this reason, it is probable that [words indistinct], but I am confident that once the Contadora position, methods, and purposes are explained to him, Gen Mejia will surely understand. There is no other way. The Contadora presentation is convincing.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Ambassador, since President Betancur visited Central America, it seems Contadora has regressed in its efforts to achieve peace in Central America.

[Gomez Hurtado] No, I don't think so. There are two ways of looking at it. One is that progress is achieved if positive situations are gradually achieved. The other position considers the importance of a collective action, such as that undertaken by Contadora, if previously feared situations are avoided. When Contadora became active, the situation seemed to be inevitably leading to armed confrontations. Today, despite the display of maneuvers, [words indistinct]. The truth is that, due to the many conversations underway and the many contacts among the various sectors involved in the (?situation), nobody foresees, for instance, a landing of Marines, a Nicaraguan invasion of its neighboring countries, or an invasion by Honduras. In a way, all these possibilities have been discarded. Why? Well, because, despite the publicity apparatus that exists in the area of conflict, Contadora is very much a presence, a buffer. In other words, Contadora is fulfilling its duty of maintaining peace [words indistinct]. [end recording]

JUSTICE MINISTER DENIES TIES WITH DRUG MONEY

PA171740 Paris AFP in Spanish 1027 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 17 Aug (AFP) -- New Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla last night offered to resign to defend himself against charges that he received drug money to finance his election campaign last year.

A heated debate is currently being held in the national Chamber of Representatives regarding the alleged use of so-called "hot money" in the election of legislators. Several ministers and Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez are attending the debates.

Liberal Congressman Jairo Ortega Ramirez, who began the debate, presented a check for 1 million pesos (about $12,500) that drug trafficker Evaristo Porras, who has been arrested several times by the Peruvian police, reportedly gave to Lara Bonilla on 20 April 1982 in a luxury Bogota hotel. A tape of this transaction reportedly exists. The minister angrily denied the charges, stating that they are a felony and a slander directed at halting his efforts on political morality. Lara Bonilla said that the debate was begun to seek a "pardon and complicity" for those who have accepted money from the drug traffickers.

He indicated that Ortega Ramirez was elected thanks to the financial support of his alternate, Pablo Escobar, who is said to be a drug trafficker and one of the founders of the clandestine Death to Kidnappers, a sinister organization at the service of drug traffickers that is blamed for many murders.

The minister demanded that the Chamber of Representatives and the Attorney General's Office undertake a complete investigation, indicating that he is willing to resign if there is the least suspicion about his conduct.

10 FARC GUERRILLAS KILLED IN CLASH WITH ARMY

PA180233 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Neiva -- A total of 10 guerrillas and 2 soldiers died today during an armed clash between Army troops and a faction of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. The clash took place in the region of San Guillermo along the Huila and Caqueta Departments' border.

The dead soldiers were identified as Corporal Jose Eduardo Garzon and Marino Hidalgo Ospina, members of the Magdalena Battalion, engaged in antiguerrilla operations in that zone. The 10 guerrillas still have not been identified.

Defense Ministry spokesmen reported that other members of the subversive column are surrounded by Army troops in that zone.

CANACINTRA DEFENDS DE LA MADRID-REAGAN TALKS

FL171214 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The National Association of the Processing Industry (CANACINTRA) today rejected the notion that the talks between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and U.S. President Ronald Reagan were to no avail.

In a communique, CANACINTRA pointed out that the brief duration of the talks had hindered the confirmation of agreements on the issues of tuna, immigration, in-bond industry, scientific cooperation, and domestic trade policy.

CANACINTRA said the imbalance and development of the national economy, as well as Mexico's participation in the policy of self-determination of peoples, has drawn attention to this country because of its prospects for progress. CANACINTRA said there should be closer cooperation between Mexico and the United States because of the interrelation of their economies and the proximity and importance of the two nations on the international scene.

CANACINTRA said that in order to strengthen the nation's economy, it is vitally important to expand relations with our northern neighbors, but that it was even more important to have Mexican businessmen become more aware of the administration's policies to meet the challenge of development.

The CANACINTRA communique cited the need to stress the government's efforts to cut public spending and fight inflation by channeling investments in such a way as to avoid having the recession turn into an economic depression. CANACINTRA said we must build a structure that will facilitate the complete development of the country's productive capacity and make it competitive on the world market.

PEMEX SAYS PRESENT EXPORT LEVEL TO CONTINUE

FL172134 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1625 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Aug (NOTIMEX) — Even though demand exceeds the 400,000 barrels exported daily, the export limit of 1.5 million will not be exceeded, Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) Director Mario Ramon Beteta has announced.

During a meeting of the members of the Chamber of Deputies' Energy and Accountant's Office Committees, Beteta also pointed out that it has not been proposed to make PEMEX a model of administration of the public sector. He indicated that the planning and management of PEMEX' budget for the fiscal year will make the commitment of supporting national development possible, and added that special attention is being given to tasks peculiar to financial operations, such as collections, payments, handling of funds, and servicing the debt, as in auditing.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED -- Mexico City, Aug 17, CANA-REUTER -- The Mexican Navy seized pure cocaine with a street value of 150 million dollars and arrested two Americans after intercepting a yacht off the Yucatan peninsula, the Attorney General's Office said last night. It said the Navy was alerted by a Mexican radio operator who picked up a signal on Saturday between a twin-engine plane and a yacht. The 200 kg (440 lb) of cocaine was being taken to the Bahamas and would then have been smuggled into Miami, the statement said. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1036 GMT 17 Aug 83 FL]

ARIAS CONFIRMED AS HEAD OF PANAMENIST PARTY

PA151458 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The national constituent convention of the Authentic Panamenist Party, held today in Penonome, approved by general acclaim Arnulfo Arias Madrid as president of the party's National Directorate.

The National Directorate of the Authentic Panamenist Party also includes Hildebrando Nicosia, secretary general; and Jose Pacifico Adames, Francisco Adames, Carlos Greco, Guillermo Endara, and Jose Salvador Munoz in other important positions.

During the convention, presided over by Aurelio Alba, the statutes and platform of the party were also approved by acclaim by the delegates from all provinces. The platform consists of 19 points, including economic aspects, the application of a national policy which is neither capitalistic nor interventionist, and the use of uncommitted capital in the country's rural areas.

Following the convention, Diamantina Rivera obtained an exclusive interview with the three-time president of the republic.

[Begin recording] [Rivera] Dr Arias, will you seek the presidency for a fourth time?

[Arias] I have held the office three times, and three times I have fallen. Does that make you happy? [laughing]

[Rivera] What do you think about the presidential candidacy of General Ruben Dario Paredes?

[Arias] Anyone who is 35 years old, even an illiterate, can be president of the republic.

[Rivera] And you, who have been brought down by the military, what do you think about the new chief of the National Guard?

[Arias] He is one of the best among them. I hope he continues to gradually learn that he has to respect the rights of the citizens in every respect. [end recording]

BELIZE

PREMIER GEORGE PRICE TRAVELS TO MEXICO

PA171915 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1829 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Belmopan, 17 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Belizean Premier George Price has left for Mexico City from the Belize International Airport. Government sources who were asked about Price's trip refused to provide any details. They did not indicate whether Price will be going to another country from Mexico.

BRIEFS

IRAQI AMBASSADOR -- The Iraqi ambassador to Belize, Fahkrie Ahmed Qasim, visited Belmopan on August 5 and met with Prime Minister Geoorce Price. Mr Qasim was accredited as the Iraqi nonresident ambassador to Belize last January. He is resident ambassador to Mexico. The visit is evidence of Iraq's interest in further strengthening relations with Belize. Iraq is one of the Middle East countries that has given Belize continued support at the United Nations. [Text] [Belize SUNDAY TIMES in English 14 Aug 83 p 5 FL]

COSTA RICA

SANDINIST SUPPORTERS ADMIT SETTING UPALA FIRE

PA171655 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Regarding the recent fire in the center of Upala, which burned several stores and houses to ashes, Justice Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has cited statements by those arrested for the action. According to official reports, the individuals have admitted their involvement in the fire and have identified themselves as supporters of the Nicaraguan Sandinist Government.

Minister Gutierrez said that this is the first time there has been a case with so much proof. Never before have we had such a specific case dealing with the Nicaraguan problem, he said. Gutierrez added that a diplomatic protest may be filed through the Foreign Ministry and that the matter will then be discussed by the Joint Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Commission.

EL SALVADOR

LABOR PROPOSES NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

PA171440 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Aug (AFP) -- The establishment of a new provisional government -- "truly representative, with positive support and social endorsement" -- was proposed today by the influential Democratic Popular Unity (UPD) of El Salvador.

The UPD, made up of a large number of labor unions with a membership of 500,000, denounced the "absolute contempt for human life" in El Salvador, where "we live in legal anarchy with contradictory government decisions." The UPD expressed support for a "negotiated solution" to the civil war, because if a military solution is imposed, "we might have to endure a harsh dictatorship for another 50 years."

Referring to the draft constitution being discussed by the Constituent Assembly, the labor leaders pointed out that to put an end to the shortcomings, a new Supreme Court, noted earlier, new magistrates for the Accounts Court, a new attorney general, and other public officials would have to be named, and they would have to be "honest and capable." Once the new constitution goes into effect, the UPD stated, a new electoral law should be developed so that presidential elections can be held and can be turned over to a legitimate government.

The UPD proposed eradication of the paramilitary corps in order to guarantee the citizen's lives, and it asked the Armed Forces to comply with the "noble functions" with which they are tasked by the Constitution and "not invade areas" beyond their authority.

The union leaders asked the military and security forces to return to the garrisons -- removing military personnel from civilian positions -- and requested greater control of military aid funds from friendly governments. The UPD also requested clarification of the crimes of union leaders, U.S. advisers, and others, which to date continue to be mysteries.

The document pointed out "profound legal voids" in the current draft constitution and maintained that the draft should not be approved until the opinions and suggestions of the different sectors of the public are heard. The UPD stated that "In El Salvador we not only live in legal anarchy with contradictory government decisions but also with absolute contempt for human life."

COPREFA ON LATEST OPERATIONS, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

PA170358 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Aug 83 pp 2, 23

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday reported that they had put down isolated harassment operations in the last 48 hours. The report said that two extremists were killed in one of these operations, which took place in El Portillo, Berlin, Usulutan Department. Similar operations have been conducted in La Laguna, in Chalatenango Department; San Esteban Catarina, in San Vicente Department; in the area of La Bermuda, in Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department; and on Guazapa Hill, in San Salvador Department.

Military sources also reported yesterday that the Army is continuing to comb the departments of Chalatenango, San Vicente, Cabanas, Cuscatlan, San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, La Paz, and Morazan. Meanwhile, according to reports from military authorities, military civic action activities and the CONARA operation continue, with the distribution of food, medical and nutritional attention, housing, relocation, first aid, etc. The operation to help families that have been victimized by violence is particularly intensive in San Vicente, Usulutan, Morazan, and Chalatenango.

REBEL ATTACKS AGAINST ARMY CITED BY HAVANA

FL172022 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Notwithstanding its acclaimed anti-insurgency operations, the Salvadoran Army has suffered at least 19 deaths in the last few days in the area near Guazapa Volcano.

In another broadcast of Radio Venceremos -- the voice of the FMLN -- it was announced that its forces had attacked a military patrol that was going from San Salvador to Suchitoto, and killed four government soldiers.

The Armed Forces Press Committee acknowledged the attack, saying that it occurred against a patrol made up of policemen and guards traveling in a truck. Meanwhile, guerrilla commandos carried out several acts of sabotage against electric power lines in the Guazapa region, which caused a long power outage in a large section of the Salvadoran capital.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT DENIES MILITARY PACT WITH EL SALVADOR

PA170452 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Guatemalan Government "totally and categorically" rejected the allegation that it has a military cooperation agreement with the Government of El Salvador, as announced by the U.S. daily THE NEW YORK TIMES.

An official source of the regime headed by General Oscar Mejia Victores stated that the report "is totally unfounded."

It was said that the U.S. daily's report "shows a lack of respect for the Guatemalan Government, because it states that the government would be capable of anything to obtain arms."

The source also added that the statement discredits the Salvadoran regime by suggesting that it would exchange military training for arms.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON TOUR, CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA170409 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, Guatemala's new foreign minister, said today shortly after his appointment that he will tour Central America next week.

Diaz-Duran also announced the appointment of Federico Fahsen Ortega as the deputy foreign minister. He described this as being a "roving" position.

According to Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran, Deputy Foreign Minister Fahsen Ortega, who was formerly director of the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism (INGUAT), will be visiting the Central American and Contadora Group countries (Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico) continuously, but he will primarily travel wherever "his presence is required by events."

According to Andrade Diaz-Duran, the roving deputy minister will have the task of improving Guatemala's tarnished image abroad. He blamed the deterioration of that image on internal problems.

As to his Central American trip, the new foreign minister said that its purpose is to make personal contacts with the other foreign ministers, to become acquainted with them, and to continue talks that were initiated earlier to find solutions to the region's problems.

With regard to his future role, Andrade Diaz-Duran said that he must shoulder a "very big" responsibility, because the area is in the midst of a political crisis that he described as having a "guarded prognosis."

The minister said that he will maintain the policy that has been in force at Guatemala's Foreign Ministry and reiterated that the region's problems must be solved by the Central Americans themselves.

He added, however, that Guatemala views the Contadora Group's efforts with approval and will cooperate with the group or with any country that offers its good offices in the search for solutions to the region's problems.

He said that Guatemala has a peaceful and democratic tradition, and that the new military regime is firmly committed to respect for human rights.

He revealed that a few changes will be made in the diplomatic corps and disclosed that among those to be replaced is the Guatemalan ambassador to Washington.

In conclusion, he said that Guatemala maintains its claim to rights over Belize.

MEJIA REGIME SEEKS RELATIONS WITH MADRID

LD172242 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The new Guatemalan Government is again talking about the possible reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Spain. A report on this from Juan Luis Diaz Prat in Mexico:

The new Guatemalan Government wishes to reestablish diplomatic relations with Spain and hopes that the Madrid government will adopt a realistic attitude in the forthcoming talks, said new Guatemalan Minister of Foreign Relations Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran. Spain broke off diplomatic relations with Guatemala in 1980 as a result of the assault on and burning of the emebassy where approximately (?30) peasants had taken refuge. These and others inside the building, including a Spanish diplomat, were killed. There were only two survivors, one of them Ambassador Maximo Cajal, who was accused of being an intermediary for Marxist-Leninist subversion by the dictatorial government of Romeo Lucas Garcia. This accusation was upheld by General Rios Montt and surprisingly recalled by General Mejia Victores only 1 day after he had taken power. Foreign Minister Andrade last night said that Gen Mejia Victores had reiterated his wish that negotiations, with a realistic and positive attitude, will enable the reestablishment of relations.

BUSINESSMEN PREPARE TO BENEFIT FROM REAGAN PLAN

PA172337 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Guatemala on the Offensive in the Reagan Plan"]

[Excerpt] Guatemala's private enterprises and the Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce are busily organizing a conference of Central American, U.S., and Caribbean businessmen to be held in Guatemala 18-20 September. More than 200 businessmen are expected to attend.

The basic purpose of the conference is to begin setting up mechanisms to rapidly attract investments under U.S. President Reagan's assistance plan for the Caribbean Basin, [effective] since 5 August. Because of this law, Caribbean products, including those of Guatemala, can be imported duty free into the United States. With some rare exceptions, the law will be in effect until 30 September 1995, a period of 12 years, which will permit a reactivation of several industries that manufacture traditional and nontraditional export products that will become sources of foreign exchange and employment in our country.

Another major feature of this law is the fact that it grants fiscal incentives to U.S. firms that make investments in the area. In addition, tourism would receive a substantial boost, because businessmen who attend or hold conventions in Guatemala would be entitled to tax deductions they would not receive for conventions held in the United States.

The feeling in Guatemala's private business circles is that advantage must be taken of this commercial opportunity and chance to attract financing for Guatemala as soon as possible because other countries in the Caribbean Basin are also trying to make maximum use of the advantages afforded by the Reagan plan. Guatemalan businessmen have always demonstrated tremendous initiative and aggressiveness, and they are not lagging behind or resting on their laurels this time.

Thus far it is expected that the Guatemalan conference, which will be held a few days before the conference to be held in Miami, will be attended by some 200 U.S., Central American, and Caribbean businessmen and investors. Without doubt, the Guatemalan businessmen, who are more directly interested in establishing contacts to sell their products, will participate on a large scale in this important event, which may mark the beginning of a new economic revitalization.

HONDURAS

DEFENSE SECRETARY VIEWS WITHDRAWAL OF ADVISERS

PA172322 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Interview with Honduran Defense Secretary Colonel Amilcar Castillo by Jose Domingo Flores; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Flores] Fidel Castro has announced the withdrawal of military advisers in Central America [words indistinct] if Cuba does it. Has this case become an East-West political issue, Colonel?

[Castillo] It is clear that this is a political issue. It is practically a condition. The United States, and even we, do not believe the promises or the treaties signed by the communists. Therefore, I think that this will depend on the future. We will see what happens. I believe that if they keep their promises, then the other side could do the same.

[Flores] As a career military officer, would you accept the withdrawal of the U.S. military advisers from Honduras?

[Castillo] It is a matter that is dealt with between governments, at the government level. If our government agrees to it, then I, as a secretary of state and member of the Armed Forces, am in no position to [words indistinct].

[Flores] How do you view (?the withdrawal of U.S. advisers) in light of the Central American situation [words indistinct]?

[Castillo] The United States is saying that it would withdraw the advisers. [Words indistinct] Nicaragua withdraws not only the Cuban advisers, but those of other countries. But as I already said, this [words indistinct] would have to be determined at the government level. [passage indistinct]

[Flores] Do the armies of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala have an alliance?

[Castillo] Relations among these armies have always been good. We exchange information and on occasion officers. However, there is no organization yet to unite [words indistinct].

[Flores] What is the purpose of relations with the U.S. Army?

[Castillo] To neutralize actions against Honduras, because this is a common problem of our countries.

[Flores] Nicaragua has said that the refugee camps located in our country are concentration camps. What can you say about this?

[Castillo] I do not believe they are concentration camps because the areas where the refugees are located... [changes thought] there is control in the areas because they have a refugee status. The refugees live in an area where they can move freely and engage in activities which have been planned for them — agricultural and production activities.

[Flores] [Question indistinct]

[Castillo] I would say both because we have in our countries [words indistinct] for that type of activity. Of course, if they become subversive individuals, it is because of external support as well.

[Flores] From what country, Colonel?

[Castillo] The country that supplies the training has been very well identified: Cuba [words indistinct] for several decades; it has had a communist dictatorship for some time. Now Nicaragua has a few centers where there are individuals [words indistinct] to export their revolution.

OFFICER CONFIRMS VIOLATION OF WATERS BY NICARAGUA

PA172306 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] A report by HRN early last night has been confirmed officially: Honduran fishing boats were harassed by Nicaraguan Coast Guard boats in Honduran waters. Carlos Matute Rivera, our correspondent in La Ceiba, reported at 2345 last night that Honduran fishing boats were being pursued by Nicaraguan patrol boats which, in a flagrant violation of Honduran waters along our northern coasts, were attempting to seize them.

At about 2000 last night, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez confirmed this action. He said that Honduran Air Force planes flew to the site where the Honduran boats were being harassed by the Nicaraguan patrol boats immediately after the incident was reported.

He also reported that our aircraft had a difficult time protecting the boats because it was already dark; they had to return to their base.

We have now established telephone contact with Colonel Ruben Montoya, general commander of the naval forces, who will tell us about the matter.

[Begin live relay] [Montoya] Yesterday we received an urgent call about a new aggression which occurred at 1745; some fishing boats had entered our territorial waters. Such incidents occur all the time when these fishing boats or Nicaraguan patrol boats learn of our patrol boats' arrival at Puerto Castilla or any other place on the islands in the bay for refueling. This happened yesterday when these fishing boats... [changes thought] They have a fleet of fishing boats which are equipped with guns. This confuses our fishermen. They think these are fishing boats, but they are equipped with guns in order to seize our boats and take them to Nicaraguan ports.

As soon as we learned of the incident, we coordinated actions with the Air Force to send planes to the area immediately. But the Nicaraguans engage in these actions at that time of the day knowing it is difficult for our Air Force planes to carry out reconnaissance flights or any kind of action with positive [words indistinct]. [end relay]

ALVAREZ ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., NICARAGUA

PA171330 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Press conference held by General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, for local and foreign reporters at the Officers Training School; questioners not identified -- live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] U.S. maneuvers are currently being held which could involve some 5,000 U.S. soldiers at one time. How do you view your relations with Nicaragua at this moment? Has there been a change in these relations?

[Alvarez] There has been no change in our relations with Nicaragua. You know that Nicaragua is a Soviet base. In 3 years it has developed armed forces that are way out of proportion in Central America. It represents a serious and real threat to Honduras. The joint maneuvers with the United States are intended to help us better defend our country; that is, to learn more advanced techniques of military instruction or military preparation in case Nicaragua should attack us, either through the development of massive armed subversion in Honduras or by direct aggression. This is the purpose of the maneuvers -- to give Honduras a greater defensive capability. This certainly does not change our relations with Nicaragua. We are not preparing to attack Nicaragua. This is only a preventive measure. We cannot, however, determine Nicaragua's intent.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct] Is it true that a subversive group is already operating in Honduran territory?

[Alvarez] Well, I'd like to tell you that this is the second group that has entered Honduras in recent weeks. We did not divulge this information to the press because we were not certain, and you know we cannot play around with that kind of information. We must have proof, because we must not fool the people on this matter. It is a serious thing for the country. You must all know that in my statements I have always mentioned some Honduran people being trained as guerrillas and terrorists in Cuba and Nicaragua; well, now they are returning. Two groups have already returned.

[Reporter] General, because of your long and strong relations with the Argentine military and because of other reasons -- such as the outcome of the Vietnam war -- it is said you do not trust the U.S. word very much and that this is why you wanted these maneuvers. It is also said that you have asked for $300 million in military aid from the United States. Your comments, please, regarding your faith in the U.S. and the $300 million.

[Alvarez] Well, regarding my faith in the United States, I did have my -- well, I was not very sure how far the United States would go to help us defend this small democracy. However, I must say that my attitude, my way of thinking on this, has changed since President Reagan's speech to the U.S. Congress and the actions which he, as head of the U.S. Government, initiated. I have no doubts that the Reagan administration is willing to help us defend democracy and freedom, to help us stop the advance of communism in Central America.

Regarding the amount of money we need to strengthen our armed forces, that answer will have to be given by the U.S. Congress. [passage omitted]

[Ricardo Duran] General, [words indistinct] you spoke of two groups. When you mentioned the first group you said that there were 150 people, but you did not say how many were in the second group. First of all, I would like you to give us a rough estimate of the number of insurgents in Olancho Department. During a recent interview with a U.S. newspaper you spoke of 2,000 terrorists being trained in Cuba. Do you expect an escalation of urban violence, urban terrorism, here and, lastly, are the Honduran Armed Forces prepared to confront such insurgency? Do you have enough equipment and training to wage an anti-insurgency campaign? My name is Ricardo Duran from [words indistinct] in the United States.

[Alvarez] You have asked a lot of questions. Approximately 200 to 300 men have entered. Two thousand have already been trained, and we know that more are being trained -- all specialists. It seems that all these people are cadres -- that is, they will come here to recruit people to prepare and form guerrilla groups. They want to expand their numbers. As to your comment that this could explode at any moment -- urban terrorism, guerrilla warfare, and all that -- that could be. Those people are trained for this very thing.

Regarding our ability, I believe we could do it, because we would be fighting an action that is, relatively, in the initial stages, and I am sure that my armed forces have the capacity to do it. There is one important factor, and this gives me much hope: The Honduran people are aware that this is not the way to solve our problem.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Comparing the Hondruan Army to the Nicaraguan Army. At this moment there does not seem to be any intention to develop the Army technically and numerically. Some efforts are being made in the technical areas, but the Honduran Army does not seem to be willing to grow. Do you believe that the number of men you have is enough, or is there a chance that it will grow?

[Alvarez] I do not believe that it is the number of men which gives an armed forces superiority. There are more important factors involved. A small armed forces, one within the capabilities of the country, can be enough to dissuade Nicaragua from an attack. In our plans to improve our military, we do not seek a force to invade Nicaragua, but rather to dissuade Nicaragua from attacking us, and to internally defend Honduras. To do this you do not need an armed forces as large as they have.

[Question indistinct]

[Alvarez] First of all, the U.S. troops are here helping us and they are not under my command. Therefore, any aggression they might carry out against another country in Central America would be ordered by their commanders.

However, while they are here they will only dedicate themselves to training our people, because that is what I will allow. Further orders... well, that will depend on their superiors over there, but not here in Honduras. What I can guarantee is that while they are here they will do what I have authorized them to do.

[Question indistinct]

[Alvarez] I can't answer that question directly. In the first place, because I am not the man who decides if we go to war. There is a president and a congress, and they are the only ones who can order our troops to go out of our territory and attack territory in a neighboring country. In the second place, I can tell you something I already responded to in a previous question: We want a force that is sufficiently capable of dissuading Nicaragua from attacking us. Honduras does not intend to attack anyone because we do not have any interests outside our territory. We have enough territory, enough resources to develop, and enough problems to solve, which take up all our efforts.

[Question indistinct]

[Alvarez] That is false. I've been asked that question a hundred times. Our border is very long, as you may all know, and it is truly difficult to control the traffic of people on our border. It is a border that is over 700 km long. It has very bad roads. We had the same problem with Somoza when he used to complain that the Sandinists were infiltrating the country. We used to capture some of them and return them to Panama or Mexico. It was truly a problem.

In addition, I want to tell you that we are not going to make a great effort -- tiring out our troops and wearing out our equipment -- to protect Nicaragua's back while Nicaragua is attacking us and is training people who want to destroy our country. For this reason, we are seeking a settlement, through Contadora, on the seven points which Honduras proposed. When Nicaragua responds with honesty and sincerity, we will make an effort to help. However, this effort must be reciprocal.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] U.S. assistance. There has been talk about (?construction) of a naval base in Tela. Is this project under study? How advanced is it?

[Alvarez] No, that is not true. I believe that my fellow townspeople -- I am from Tela -- [changes thought] imagine what they will do if I put a base there. [laughter]

[Reporter] What about another place?

[Alvarez] No, there is nothing to that. There is nothing I can realistically say about it. [words indistinct]

[Reporter -- question in English] You said earlier that if the right decisions are made in Washington, you would not need American intervention in Honduras. Could you be more specific [words indistinct] to avoid any possibility of intervention by American soldiers in Honduras?

[Alvarez] Well, I will refer to two aspects. First, the need to implement an economic development plan for Central America as soon as possible. Let's hope that Mr Kissinger will bring news soon and that we reach an agreement with him to begin something that is truly constructive and lasting for this area. You must understand that there cannot be any social development without economic development.

Secondly, the military sector of these countries must be strengthened within a short term. In other words, there are two problems: an imminent danger, currently present, in the political-military sphere, and the other, a chronic problem, which is our social and economic backwardness. This problem, because of its own nature, cannot be solved immediately. However, we must begin to solve this problem immediately so that our countries' economic takeoff and social development can become a reality in the medium or long term. Consequently, these are two factors on which the United States must make a decision soon if it truly wants to save Central America, which in turn will help its own security.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] a Marxist regime on the other side of the border it will be very difficult for Honduras to live in peace. I would like to know if you still maintain that a thorough change in the Sandinist regime is necessary to solve the Central American problem?

[Alvarez] I still maintain that. It is not only difficult for Honduras but for all of Central America. What is the reason for that? To the foreign investor, we are still described as a high-risk area. This is because of the Marxist threat in Central America characterized by and manifest in the Soviet base which Nicaragua has become. It is impossible for Central Americans to coexist with a Soviet base close by.

[Reporter] General, going back to the topic of U.S. aid, you have talked about the urgency of this economic and military aid. Could you give us a dollar figure that you think you need in the short term for the economic and military sectors?

[Alvarez] As to economic aid, well, I do not know what to tell you because that is not my specialty, but a commission is working on that. This commission will discuss the matter with Mr Kissinger. It will tell him what we would like to have in order to achieve true economic development in our country. Of course, this plan would include U.S. assistance plus foreign investments. Regarding the military sector, it is very difficult to quote a figure, but you mentioned a figure which could be approximate.

[Reporter] 300 million [currency not specified].

[Reporter] Honduras has been described as a watchdog for U.S. interests in Central America, or has Honduras become a battlefield [Words indistinct]?

[Alvarez] Well, what do you think? Do you think we are the Gringos' watchdogs?

[Reporter] I said that this is how we have been described abroad.

[Alvarez] Well, what do you think? That is my question.

[Reporter] I think you are the person giving the news conference.

[Alvarez] No, [words indistinct] how can it be possible that a Honduran would say that we are the Gringos' watchdogs. In other words, (?what I am saying is that) it bothers me that you, a Honduran, are asking such a question. It is all right for others to ask it, but not you. However, if you [words indistinct] it is because you have doubts. This is not possible. We are nobody's watchdog. I can tell you that the Gringos [words indistinct] because we called them to help us train ourselves to defend ourselves. However, we are not doing any work for the Americans.

We understand that there is a threat to both countries. Therefore, they have agreed to help us prepare ourselves to defend ourselves. And this democracy, which is also their democracy, is the democracy of the Free World. But we are not anybody's watchdog.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] now that Salvadorans are being trained at the CREM [Regional Military Training Center] and taking into consideration the Salvadoran-Honduran conflict?

[Alvarez answer indistinct]

[Reporter] We had the war between Honduras and El Salvador. Doesn't it bother you that Salvadoran soldiers are being trained in Honduras?

[Alvarez] Wars are waged because of political interests, and political interests are temporary. Right now we have a common enemy that is deadly, and we must all help one another defend ourselves from that common enemy, which is communism and which is the war of conquest by Soviet Russia here in Central America. That is one of the main reasons our government decided to help El Salvador. Honduras prefers to win the war against communism in El Salvador instead of having to fight it in Honduras. All Hondurans agree on that. As to the 1969 war, you must remember or must have read about a general peace treaty signed with El Salvador. We now have normal, complete, and peaceful relations with El Salvador. Therefore, there is no legal impediment to such cooperation.

NICARAGUA

AFP: MINISTER ON LETTING CUBAN ADVISERS GO

NC172021 Paris AFP in English 2014 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Stockholm, Aug 17 (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Government is ready to let its 200 Cuban military advisers go, on condition that the United States recalls its advisers in Honduras and El Salvador, Nicaraguan Education Minister Carlos Tunnermann said here today.

He also announced that his government had been forced to close 500 schools this year because "counterrevolutionaries" had killed 45 teachers since the beginning of January.

Mr Tunnermann is in Stockholm to attend an International Christian Socialists' conference, and will meet senior Swedish officials before leaving at the end of the week.

CONGRESSMEN'S REMARKS, INVITATION FOR VISIT CITED

PA171520 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta, was invited last night to visit the United States by U.S. Congressmen Paul Tsongas and James Shannon. When told that the U.S. Embassy had denied a visa to Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, the Nicaraguan interior minister, Shannon said that decision must be changed so that Borge can travel to the United States.
The U.S. people want dialogue and negotiation, and we feel that the essential issue will be decided by the U.S. public, Shannon said.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Democratic Party delegation arrived yesterday in this country on an official 48-hour visit to learn firsthand about the Reagan administration's acts of aggression against Nicaragua. The delegation is led by Democratic Representative Edward Markey. His group includes Democratic Representatives Thomas Carter, Frederick Butcher, Frank Harrison, and Markey's assistant, Jeffrey Pikes. [names and titles as received] Markey is a firm opponent of President Reagan's military maneuvers in Central America.

Last night, Senator Tsongas and Representative Shannon promised to work in the U.S. Congress to prevent intervention in Nicaragua and Central America. The promise was made after they met with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto. The meeting, which was held in the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center in Managua, was covered by dozens of U.S., European, Latin American, and Nicaraguan journalists.

The congressmen were accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton and by the owners of THE BOSTON GLOBE and THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

Addressing the journalists, Commander Ortega said that Senator Tsongas voted in favor of Nicaragua when a $75-million aid program was debated in Congress. EL NUEVO DIARIO erroneously reported yesterday that Tsongas had opposed this aid.

Later, both Senator Tsongas and Representative Shannon expressed their clear leaning toward political negotiation in the face of the U.S. President's aggressive stand on Nicaragua. The two expressed their opposition to the establishment of a military base in Honduras to train Salvadoran and Honduran guardsmen, stressing that there has been exaggerated militarization.

U.S. 'THREATS' DENOUNCED AT SECURITY COUNCIL

PA171345 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] United Nations -- Nicaragua has denounced the presence of warships off its coasts and those of Libya, all part of U.S. preparations for aggression against both countries. Addressing the UN Security Council, which is currently reviewing a Libyan charge on Washington's warmongering threats, Nicaraguan representative Julio Icaza said that the deployment of U.S. forces in the Mediterranean Sea and the Bright Star-83 maneuvers are both provocative actions that do not contribute to detente.

He commented on the situation in Chad, calling for an end to foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of that country and for the solution of its problem on the basis of OAU principles.

FRENCH FLOUR DONATION RECEIVED; AID PACT SET

PA171630 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] French Ambassador Rene Ala has officially delivered 7,000 tons of flour that the French Government and people donated to Nicaragua. The valuable donation was received yesterday in the port of Corinto by Government Junta member Dr Fidel Cordova Rivas, who expressed his gratitude for this act of solidarity by the French Government.

It is worth noting that this is the fourth time France has donated products for the production of bread. On three previous occasions it has donated 24,000 tons of wheat. On delivering this flour, the French ambassador expressed his satisfaction that both peoples can share French bread. He added that France will continue to give its unconditional aid to the Nicaraguan people, who are struggling to build a new society.

Receiving the French donation to the Nicaraguan people yesterday, Dr Cordova Rivas announced that the French and Nicaraguan Governments will sign a protocol for nearly 100 million francs in September. The protocol will establish the financing for such projects as the Tipitapa Malacatoya Sugar Mill, the servicing of 10,000 TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] customers in Managua Department, the promotion of serum manufacture in the Solka Laboratories, and the drilling of wells for the Momotombo geothermic project.

STATE COUNCIL DISCUSSES POLITICAL PARTIES BILL

PA170031 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Report by Miriam Palacios]

[Excerpts] The State Council has taken further steps toward the institutionalization of the revolution by approving in preliminary debate Articles 26, 27, 28, and 29, Chapter 8 of the political parties bill, which refers to the suspension and annulment of political parties.

Miguel Marmol, member of the Communist Party of El Salvador, was a special guest of the State Council during the debates.

PASTORA ON UNION WITH OTHER FORCES, RECENT ACTIONS

Denies Agreement With FDN

PA171700 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Eden Pastora, leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], has stated that ARDE has not signed any joint communique with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front [as heard]. Commander Cero said this in an exclusive interview granted to Radio Reloj. He said that on several occasions he has emphasized that in order to join or unite with other forces, three conditions must be met. The first condition is to defend a democratic and revolutionary program such as the revolution's original program. The second condition is to rid the general staff of all Somozist guardsmen. The third condition is to remain independent from any foreign force.

Pastora, leader of ARDE, which is fighting in southern Nicaragua, said: We reiterate to the peoples of the world that ARDE has not signed any document with groups opposed to the government of the nine Nicaraguan commanders.

Reports Clashes

PA171850 [Editorial Report] Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish at 1145 GMT on 17 August broadcast a recorded interview with Eden Pastora, who called the station the night of 16 August "from the mountains of southern Nicaragua, using a special communications system." Asked about late reports of clashes between his forces and the Sandinists, Pastora replied: "Today, we are engaged in strong battles with an entire battalion of the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, Interior Ministry forces, and [word indistinct] forces. The action is taking place between Punta Roca and [name indistinct]

on the Atlantic Coast. There have been five clashes today in which 2 of our men have been killed and 5 wounded, while 27 EPS soldiers have been killed."

REBELS ATTACK JIGUINA BRIDGE; EPS BASE ISOLATED

PA162144 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- According to reports by the clandestine station "Radio 15 September," official voice of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], the Sandinist People's Army's [EPS] military base at Apanas was left practically isolated by the damaging of the Jiguina bridge only 3 km from the base.

Apanas is a beautiful artificial lake some 4 km from Jinotega, capital of the department of the same name, and one of the region's most important cities for its coffee proudction because it is one of the country's highest.

The Jiguina bridge had tremendous strategic-military importance, since it was the only link between the Apanas military base and important cities and villages in the department, such as Wiwili, El Cua, Pantasma, Bocay, and La Pita, to mention only a few. According to the rebel radio station, most of these zones are under FDN control. The Nicaraguan rebels have reported that the "disabling" operation was carried out by a small number of commandos specializing in this type of work. These commandos, after carrying out the mission entrusted to them by the FDN staff, withdrew in an orderly manner to their bases in Jinotega Department.

VIETNAM'S NGUYEN CO THACH ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL171040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Nguyen Co Thach, alternate member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has arrived in this capital on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of our Foreign Ministry.

Isidoro Malmierca, member of the party Central Committee and minister of foreign relations; Sombat Chounlamani, Laotian ambassador to Cuba; Long Visalo, Kampuchean ambassador to Cuba; and (Nguyen Vinh Nam), Vietnamese charge d'affaires in Cuba, were on hand to welcome the distinguished guest at the capital's airport. The Vietnamese foreign minister was accompanied by Hoang Hiep, interim chief of the Cuba and Latin America Directorate of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Begins Talks

FL171801 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Nguyen Co Thach, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Vietnamese Communist Party and Vietnamese foreign minister, is making a brief working visit to Cuba. The official delegations from Cuba and Vietnam began official talks to discuss the international situation, the Nonaligned Movement, and relations between the two countries. Earlier, the Vietnamese foreign minister had laid a wreath at the tomb of Jose Marti at Revolution Plaza.

U.S. TROOPS, EQUIPMENT ARRIVE IN HONDURAS

PA162154 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] An advance group consisting of 800 U.S. troops is already in Honduras participating in the joint Big Pine II military maneuvers, which will last until early 1984. The contingent will be gradually reinforced until it numbers 3,000 troops in October and 5,000 by November. U.S. Air Force C-141 planes have brought communications equipment, tents, a hospital, and a great number of weapons to Honduras for use in these war exercises, which are an open provocation of Nicaragua. The Big Pine II maneuvers are also an open challenge to the efforts made to promote peace in Central America by the Contadora Group, which includes Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.

INAUGURATION OF NAMIBIA SYMPOSIUM NOTED

FL171233 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose -- The first regional symposium on Namibia to promote Ibero-American support for Namibian independence has been inaugurated in San Jose by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. (Tawaya Wasudi), Chief of the UN Council for Namibia, and (Tius Acheque), representative of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, also spoke at the opening ceremony. In the name of the UN Council, (Wasudi) emphasized the high price that the Namibian people are paying for freedom and independence in their struggle against the South African regime that is prolonging the suffering of his people. He added that South Africa is disregarding the United Nations' decisions and continues to finance and lead counterrevolutionary groups to cause instability in the region.

BRAZIL

FIGUEIREDO TO RESUME ACTIVITIES 26 AUGUST

PY170214 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo will resume his activities as president of the republic on 26 August.

The date was set yesterday during a meeting he held with acting President Aureliano Chavez at his farm O Torto.

Today President Figueiredo was visited by Ministers Danilo Venturini, Rubem Ludwig, and Leitao de Abreu.

MINISTER REJECTS CUBA'S PROPOSED 'DEBTORS CLUB'

PY170338 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Brazil is not interested in joining the so-called club of debtor countries proposed by Cuba at the OAS.

This announcement was made by Finance Minister Ernane Galveas when he confirmed that he will participate in the meeting summoned by the Inter-American Socioeconomic Council to be held in Caracas in early September to discuss the Latin American countries' foreign debts.

Minister Galveas stated that although Brazil shares the same concerns of other countries regarding the foreign debt, it does not think that the establishment of a club of debtors is an effective measure.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT JORGE PROLONGS AUSTERITY PROGRAM

FL171300 Bridgetown CANA in English 1032 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Aug 17, CANA-REUTER -- The people of the Dominican Republic were told yesterday they face at least four more months of austerity, while their government seeks to renegotiate its 800 million dollar foreign debt.

President Salvador Jorge Blanco, speaking on the first anniversary of his inauguration, said his austerity programme -- which includes a freeze of government salaries and a ban on the import of more than 100 items including cars and non-essential foodstuffs -- would continue until January, 1984.

PARAGUAY

AIR FORCE GENERAL RECALLED FROM DUTY IN U.S.

PY161750 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] The chief executive has signed a decree ending the term in office of Air Force Brigadier General Ranulfo Efrain Gonzalez as deputy director of the Inter-American Defense School in the United States.

PERUVIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY160221 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 Aug 83 p 6

[Text] General Julian Julia Freyre, chief of staff of the Peruvian Army, arrived in our country yesterday to attend General Alfredo Stroessner's inauguration ceremony. The Peruvian visitor was met by national military authorities.

PERU

MINISTER SEES DRUGS DESTROYED, ASKS U.S. AID

PY161835 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0220 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Aug (EFE) -- Interior Minister Luis Percovich was present at the burning of three tons of drugs, mostly cocaine base, worth $13 million in the international illegal drug market.

The interior minister then said that the Peruvian Government has asked for greater support from the United States in its fight against drug trafficking, by assisting both international control and internal coca planting substitution programs.

SURINAME

PRIME MINISTER ALIBUX SEEKING ARMS FROM BRAZIL

PM161917 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 5 Aug 83 p 3

[ANP report: "Alibux Again in Brazil To Buy More Arms"]

[Excerpt] Sao Paolo -- At present Surinamese Prime Minister Alibux is paying a lightning visit to Brazil for the second time in 3 months. According to diplomatic sources, the purpose of the visit is to persuade the Brazilian authorities to supply more arms to Suriname. During his recent visit to Brazil, Netherlands Prime Minister Lubbers advised the Brazilian Government against acceding to such a request.

The Surinamese prime minister lunched Thursday [4 August] with Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerrero. Officially, Alibux has been on vacation in Brazil since Wednesday of last week. Up to this Wednesday his visit had been limited to a stay in Sao Paolo, where all the Brazilian arms factories are concentrated.

It is being assumed in Brasilia that the Surinamese prime minister is arranging for the purchase of tanks, combat aircraft, and small patrol boats. Brazil is said to have provided Paramaribo with credits worth around 30 million Dutch guilders, which primarily financed the purchase of army tents, uniforms, and camping equipment. Suriname is said to have paid for part of this with 50,000 sacks of rice.

The intention now is to win credits on a broader scale, but as far as is known the Brazilian authorities have adopted a somewhat reserved attitude. According to a Brazilian diplomat, the reason for this is the fact that his government has still not received adequate guarantees that pro-Cuban influences in Paramaribo will be stemmed.